

DRAFT SUPPLEMENT LETTER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE

Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriation Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Miscellaneous Grant Program (CIP)- Woodbourne Center- \$500,000
Hearing March 9, 2021- APPROVE

Dear Senator Guzzone, Delegate McIntosh, and
Members of the Budget and Taxation and Appropriation Committees,

I'm the Executive Director of the Woodbourne Center (Woodbourne), a residential treatment center in Baltimore City. Woodbourne operates a 48-bed residential facility for males, an 8-bed Diagnostic Program for young women who are identified as victims of sex trafficking as well as our Woodbourne School that supports and educates our young people from the age of 12 to 18. Young people, both residential and day students, have access to receive a Baltimore City high school diploma upon completion of our education program.

Woodbourne is included in the Capital Improvement Program as a miscellaneous grant in the amount of \$500,000. I am writing with the hope that the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the Appropriations Committee will approve the full amount of the grant.

The funds will be used for the following purpose:

- installation of air conditioning in the school's Student Assembly and Physical Education Building;
- update an inefficient air conditioning system in the building that houses young women who are victims of human trafficking; and
- repair structural deficiencies in the school building.

Please view Woodbourne's application for capital funds as a request for funds to improve and renovate our Woodbourne School which hosts our middle and high school programming. Although we are not a Baltimore Public School, we are licensed through the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE). Our MSDE categorization often leaves our young people without the necessary resources and tools needed to ensure their educational success. Despite our therapeutic model coupled with our behavioral support, which are necessary to treat young people experiencing cognitive and behavioral concerns due to trauma, we retain the ability to

provide a Baltimore City high school diploma or a certificate of completion for middle school that qualifies our young people to progress to their next identified level of succession. We here at Woodbourne believe that our young people despite their development, social, economic or educational background deserve the same opportunity offered their peers to be successful. Funding this project would do just that, ensure that each youth receives the tools within our renovated educational environment to be successful!

As discussed in a previous letter, our Student Assembly and Physical Education Center does not have air conditioning. The air conditioning system in the building that supports our victims of human trafficking does not provide adequate air in some rooms which can cause issues as well for ensuring a therapeutic environment conducive for proper intervention and restoration. The remainder of the funds requested will be used to repair damaged ceilings and walls, chipping paint and replacing fixtures within our aging Woodbourne School building.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Nexus-Woodbourne is looking forward to discussing this project with state officials. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 410-433-1000 Ext. 70110 or email at jmcrac@nexuswoodbourne.org. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jarrell McRae, MSW, LCSW-C | Executive Director

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Copies: The Honorable David Brinkley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Budget and Management, Teresa A. Garraty, Executive Director, Maryland Office of Capital Budgeting